



**THE FREER HOUSE**

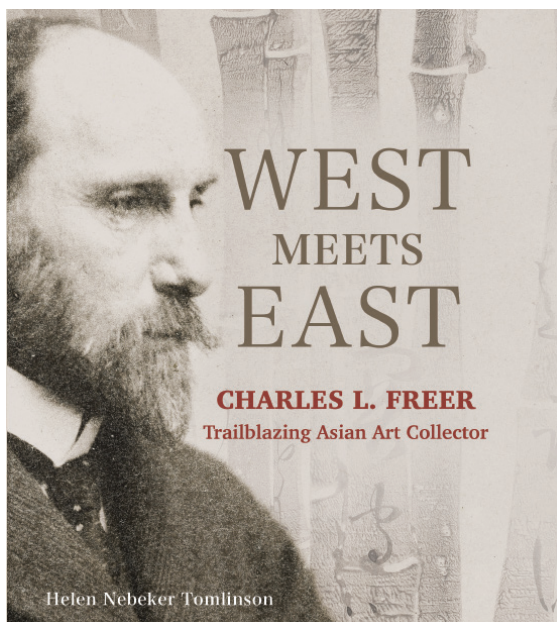
*International Landmark, A World Class Lecture Series*



71 East Ferry  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313-664-2500



## *West Meets East: Charles L. Freer, Trailblazing Asian Art Collector*



**Sunday, Nov. 10, 2019, 2:00PM**

**2:00 PM BOOK TALK & LECTURE**



by **Helen Tomlinson, PhD**  
author and scholar

&

**3:30-5:00 PM RECEPTION & GUIDED TOURS**

at

The Freer House  
(Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, WSU)  
71 E. Ferry Street, Detroit

\$15 General public

\$10 Freer House members & students

*Freer, Detroit, and Japan* exhibit and a display of photos of Japanese art from Freer's collection will be on view 3:30-5:00PM in the former Peacock Room.

### BOOK TALK & LECTURE

This Autumn marks the centenary of Freer's death in 1919. It also marks the publication of the first biography on Freer's life and legacy to be published in over 25 years! The Freer House will host a special presentation by author Helen Tomlinson, PhD, based on her exciting new book, *West Meets East: Charles L. Freer, Trailblazing Asian Art Collector*, (Mascot Books, September, 2019). The lecture will be followed by a 'meet and greet' reception with the author and books will be available for purchase.

Dr. Tomlinson's biography of Freer traces his journey from a humble childhood in rural New York to his industrial career and role as a major cultural force in rapidly expanding Detroit of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Tomlinson's



lecture draws on Freer's diaries and letters and will highlight his extraordinary adventures around the world in search of art and his great final achievement, the establishment of America's first national art museum, the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art.

According to Tomlinson, Freer blazed a trail where few others ventured on the path to becoming an internationally renowned

connoisseur of American and Asian art. Fiercely independent, intensely curious and always searching for deeper meaning in the art he loved, Freer's ground breaking accomplishments continue to be heralded and admired today by curators, scholars and art lovers around the world.

**RECEPTION • EXHIBIT • HOUSE TOUR**

***Registration and advance payment is required • Space is limited***

Register online at: [mpsi.wayne.edu/freer/events](https://mpsi.wayne.edu/freer/events) or contact Rose Foster at 313-664-2509 or [rmfoster@wayne.edu](mailto:rmfoster@wayne.edu)



**The Americana  
Foundation**



Erb Family Foundation

THE  
**KRESGE**  
FOUNDATION

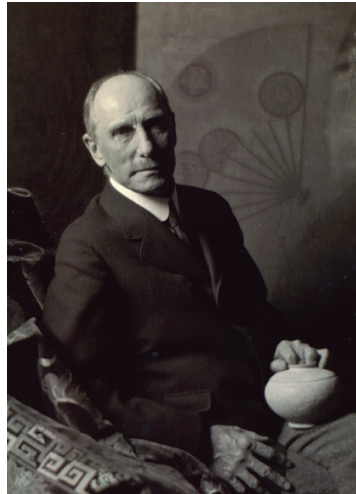


- DETAILS AND MAP ON BACK -

This centenary program, in observance of the 100th anniversary of Freer's death, is dedicated in memory of the life and legacy of Dr. Thomas W. Brunk, Freer House Scholar and Historian, on the one year anniversary of his passing in November, 2018.  
Please join us for this very special occasion.



**Thomas W. Brunk, PhD**  
1949-2018  
Detroit Art and Architectural  
Historian, Researcher, Educator,  
Preservationist



**Charles Lang Freer**  
1854-1919  
Detroit Industrialist,  
Art Collector, and Patron of the  
Arts and Education

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

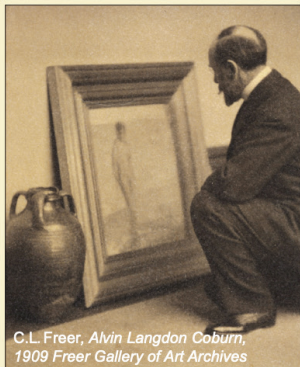
### Helen Tomlinson, PhD author and scholar



Helen Tomlinson, PhD, a resident of San Diego, California, grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah, graduated from Stanford University, and earned her PhD from Case Western University, authoring one of the first dissertations on Freer, entitled, *Charles Lang Freer, Pioneer Collector of Oriental Art* (1979). While raising her family, Tomlinson spent five years doing research on Freer, travelling from his birth place in Kingston, N.Y., to his home in Detroit, and on to his memorial monument in Kyoto, Japan, including weeks pouring over letters, diaries and his collection at the Freer Gallery of Art. Further research was conducted at the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Public Library and the Library of Congress. She then followed Freer's footsteps to Paris, Tokyo, India, Japan and China, meeting descendants of Japanese art collectors Freer had known, and even received a key to the city of Yokohama from officials in tribute to Freer, an American still much admired in Japan.

Recognizing that decades after her early research that Freer was still so little known in his own country, Tomlinson decided to turn her dissertation into a biography for the general reader. Four years of new research and writing have resulted in the publication by Mascot Books of *West Meets East: Charles L. Freer, Trailblazing Asian Art Collector*, just in time for the 100 year observance of Freer's passing.

## THE FREER HOUSE, MERRILL PALMER SKILLMAN INSTITUTE



C.L. Freer, Alvin Langdon Coburn,  
1909 Freer Gallery of Art Archives

**Charles Lang Freer** (1854-1919) made his fortune in railroad freight car manufacturing in Detroit. His remarkable shingle style residence on East Ferry Ave. was designed in 1892 by Wilson Eyre, Jr. Freer's home contained one of the world's greatest collections of Asian and American art, that include paintings by Whistler and his famed Peacock Room. Freer bequeathed his collection to the Smithsonian where it is housed today at the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.



photo by ALEXANDER VERTIKOFF

**The Freer House** (1892) is ranked as one of the most important historic buildings in Michigan. Its fine architectural detail and rich cultural history are both locally and internationally significant. The Freer House is also recognized for its role in child and family development as the home of the renowned Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute since 1920.

The Freer House membership organization works to preserve this landmark through public events, tours and fundraising for restoration. Recent accomplishments include 14 reproductions of original paintings throughout the house, the completion of the courtyard garden project, and acquisition of the original painting, "Flapjacks," by Frederick Stuart Church. Current goals include a future visitors and exhibit room and the restoration of the Whistler gallery.

**Join Us! For more info contact:** William Colburn at  
william.colburn@wayne.edu or 313-664-2500

## RECEPTION & TOUR LOCATION

### THE FREER HOUSE

71 East Ferry St., Detroit, MI 48202  
(One block north of the DIA)



**Parking** is available behind the Freer House.  
Travel south on John R. to access Lot 35.  
Pay \$9.50 at the gate with credit or debit.